A TRANCE:

OR,

Newes from Hell,

Brought fresh to TOVVNE

BY

Mercurius Acheronticus.

LONDON,
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Paræneſis Angliæ.

O England, England *If thou bee'ſt not given quite over to a reprobate ſenſe; If the leaſt ſparke of* Grace, *the leaſt ray of* Reaſon, *be yet remaining in Thee, be warn'd, be warn'd by this* Trance, *by the dreadfull objects, the hideous and horrid apparitions thereof: If no* temporall *reſpects can win Thee, let the apprehenſions of* eternall *ruin work upon Thee: If the hopes of Heaven cannot prevail with Thee, let the torments of Hell deterr Thee, which are repreſented to the very life unto Thee in this enſuing Viſion. Be not acceſſary to thy owne* deſtruction, *to thy own* damnation; *Let not thy children be deluded any longer with chymeras of more liberty, and advancement of common good. 'Tis true,* To love one's Countrey *(which is the ſpecious pretence of all theſe inſurrections) is a commendable thing, yet it is but a* Pagan *precept;* To feare God, to honour his Prieſts, to give *Caſar* his due, not to do evill that good may come of it, *theſe are all* Chriſtian *precepts, and* Scripture *principles.*

As the Author was in a Trance, *ſo ſure thou art in a* fit *of* madnes: *Poor thing, thou want'ſt a* Phyſitian *to cure thee, rather than a* Divine *to confute thee: Return then, O return to thy wits, to thy old Engliſh temper again, els 'tis high time for Thee to make thy laſt Will, and that the Bell ſhould ring out to invite thy Neighbours to the funerall of thy* Liberty; *And becauſe I have already half promis'd, I will lay this* Epitaph *upon Thee:*

Κλέπτω ἀνελθεῖν.

To

TO

ENGLANDS Imperiall Chamber,

THE

Renowned City of

LONDON:

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Right Worſhipfull the Sheriffs, the Court of Aldermen, and Common-Councell, the Noble Company of Merchant-Adventurers, and Home-Corporations; to all the hopefull Apprentices, and all other Inhabitants, Inmates, or Aliens, within the ſaid ſpacious City and Suburbs, is addreſſed what followeth.

Perditio tua ex Te, L:

O London, *underſtand thy woe,*
Thou art thy Self *thy greateſt* Foe;
Beware'd, be wiſe, prevent the Fates,
Deſtruction bounceth at thy gates,
And know, There is no earthly thing
Can make thee happy, but thy King.

Think with what Honour the firſt dagger came
Into thy Shield, the Times are now the ſame.

A TRANCE.

The Proeme.

SVch is the force of Fancy, ſo large is the reach, ſo boundleſſe is the prerogative of humane *Imagination*, that though the ſmall concave of a ſcull ſome two or three ſpans compaſſe be her ordinary and naturall habitation, yet the whole Globe of the Earth, nor all the elementary world can totally confine her, but ſhe will at pleaſure clime up to the skies, and make a ſcale of the Starrs to conduct her to the Empyrean Heaven; Thence ſhe can deſcend in a trice to the great Abyſſe, and take a ſurvey of the Kingdom of darkneſſe; And though it be a maxime among Divines that *ab Orco nulla redemptio*, there's no return out of Hell, and that the paſſage back thence is irremeable, yet the Imagination of man hath this privilege, that ſhe can make egreſſes and regreſſes, ſhe can enter, and come off cleer thence when ſhe liſt, and all this if need be in an *inſtant*; wherein ſhe ſeemes to partake of that admired quality which is inherent in that moſt comfortable creature the *Light*, who is held the ſoveraign of all ſenſible qualities among the Philoſophers, and to come neereſt to the nature of a Spirit, which creature requires but an inſtantaneous moment and point of time

time to performe his office of illumination, and dilate himself throughout the Hemisphear, whence some inferre that he is not corporeall, in regard it is an unquestioned principle in nature that all *bodies require a succession of time in their motion*: but there is this difference twixt the *Imagination* and *Light*, that there be some places whereinto Light cannot enter, but there is no part of the Vnivers so impervious, where the Imagination may not make his accesses and recesses at pleasure; as will appeare by the following example.

IT fortun'd very lately that I was in a *Trance*, a strange kind of Extasie surpriz'd me on a sudden, which lasted a good while; during the time, me thought I was transported to the remotest place, and of the greatest distance that possibly could be from Heaven; me thought I was in *Hell*, in *Hell*, God blesse us, among the Devils, and damned Spirits; I had neither that golden branch, nor the help of a *Sybilla Cumana* to conduct me up and down as the Trojan Prince had, but me thought a Spirit did lead me gently and softly all along till I came to *Pluto's* Palace, where a speciall Counsell was held to take a strict examination what service the three Furies, *Alecto*, *Tisyphone*, and *Megara*, with other inferiour Fiends that were their Assistants, had done on Earth, towards the advancement of the Kingdom of darknes, since their last *mission* thither, which was presently upon the apparance of the last blazing Star in the yeare 1618. Pluto vouchsafed to be present and preside at this Counsell, and to be *Chaireman* himself, to which purpose he had a strong Legion of *Cacodæmons* for his guard, but the businesse was prepared and facilitated for his hearing before hand by a *Committee* appointed of purpose for that end, whence I inferred that *Committees* were first hatcht in Hell, especially some of those that we have now adaies. The three ghastly daughters of Night appeard with dreadfull fiery countenances before Puto, in lieu of aire they

evaporated huge flakes of fire, which they tooke in, and let out with the accents of their words, huge bunches of Snakes with their tailes rooted in their sculls hung dangling and waving about their heads like dischevelld haire: A furious contestation fell between them who should be Proloquutrix, but in regard that *Alecto* and *Tisyphone* had given an account of their former missions, the one of the *League* in France, the other of the *revolt* of the Hollander, it came now in due turn that *Megara* should have the priority of speech, so the youngest of the *Tartarian* Girls began as followes;

May your high *Acherontic* Majestie vouchsafe to understand, that since the last happy Comet, which by the Parallax was found to be in the Heaven, appeard, we have for 30 yeares together been more active, and more eager in your Majesties service than ever we were; We have incited the affections of the fooliſh Inhabitants of the earth to war, and to worry one another like Wolves in most places; To effect which our practice hath been to bring the *beggerlieſt* and *toughest* people upon the *richeſt* and *ſofteſt*; We brought the *Swead* upon the *German*, the *Catalan* upon the *Caſtillian*, the *Tartar* upon the *Chinois*, the *Scot* upon the *Engliſh*, and now lastly, the *Turke* upon the *Venetian*, and the *Coſaque* upon the *Pole*; We have continued a lingring bloudy war in *Germany* for thirty yeares together, which entangled into it most of the neighbouring States; We have thrust divers Princes out of their ancient Inheritances, among others the Duke of *Lorain*, and the *Palſgrave* of the *Rhin*; We brought two Grand Turks to be strangled which never happened before; We have often puzzled *Italy*, we have made the Kings of *Spaine* and *France*, though Brothers, to bandy so fierce one against the other, as if the one had been an Infidell, the other a Jew; But Sir, the most advantagious and signall services we have done to your infernall Majestie have been in the Iles of great *Britaine* and *Ireland*: For whereas we divided our selves before, and went singly among other

other people, we went jointly thither all three, because we might be sure to bring our ends home to our aime. The Nation fittest for us to work first upon was the *Scot*, who have been so obedient to their Kings, that of above a hundred they brag of, scarce two parts of three dyed in their beds; We did suscitate them first against their native King, and to appeare in a daring hostile manner before him upon the borders; At which time it cost us a great deale of labour so to besot the English, to abase their courage, and entangle them with Factions (having sure confidents among them to that end) that they durst not present them battell, and this Sir was an important peece of service, for had they fought then, or had they been sensible afterwards of the Nationall dishonor they received at that time, their King being in the field, and consequently had they stucke to him afterwards to have vindicated it, all those Wars we have fomented since might have been prevented: We shortly after transmitted the same Spirit of Insurrection into *Ireland*, who being encouraged by the good successes the *Scot* had (for he had what he list, yet could he not sit quiet) and the *Irish* Commissioners being but harshly entertained by this English Parlement who intended to send over a Deputy that should pinch them more than they were before in their consciences, besides in that they revoked that leave which the King had granted under hand and seale to the Spanish Ambassadors to have some part of *Straffords* Army in *Ireland* (which were our prime instruments for the Rebellion) to go for *Spaine*, with other incentives, we stird the *Irish* also to rise in bloud, which they did to some purpose. Then came we to worke upon the *English*, whom we found as fit to receive our impression as Flax is to take fire, in regard of their long surfet of peace and plenty. We broke up one Parlement because most of the Members thereof were not for our turn; The first thing we did in *this* Parlement was to indue them with a faculty to create feares and jealousies whereof we have made excellent use, and

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although all those feares and jealousies appeare since to the common people, and City of *London*, more plain than their nose on their faces to be but forgeries, yet we have so infatuated their intellectualls that we make them still adore the Inventors of them. And to give your *Stygian* Majestie among divers others one more pregnant and undeniable demonstration what footing you have got you in that Island, we have within these few yeares raised more *Pythonesses* (which the vulgar call witches there) than ever were in that Island since your Majesty tempted *Eve*: And we enabled our *Pythonesses* to send their Imps abroad in pursuit of your service. We stood at the Kings elbo when he passed that happy *Act of continuance*, and and a *Scot* was our cheifest engine to work that; The City of *London* stood us also in excellent stead to bring our designes about; We made the riff-raff of that City, as *V.* with his Myrmydons, and *B.* with his bandogs (for so they called the rakells they had raised) to *rabble* the King out of Town; We brought also into *London* the silly Swaines of the Countrey in whole swarmes upon they knew not what; VVe were in *Kinton* field, and made the youthfull Generall of the Kings Cavalry *de gayeté de cœur* to pursue the Parlements Cavalry so far, as the day was lost by it, whereas if he had stuck Glose to the Infantry the businesse had been dispatch'd then on the Kings side, and so your Majesties service since had been frustrated; VVe were at *Marston* Moore, and made the same Generall so impatient that he could not forbeare fighting till the next day, else he had taken all the Roundhead Army in a pound; VVe took great paines at *Leycester* that the King should not march Northward, but fortifie the place and go backe to *Naseby* where we had our Imps that bestird themselves notably; VVe so manag'd the businesse afterwards that we made the King, because he is a profest enemy to your Majesty, to go disguis'd in a Servingmans habit to his Countreymen the *Scots*, and we prevail'd so far with them that they

delivered

delivered him over as a Sacrifice, and betraid him like *Judas* to the Engliſh who have crucified ever ſince like *Iewes*, by toſſing, and tumbling him up and down, and by compulſory meanes to work upon His conſcience, and ſtretching it upon the tenter; VVe made *Pembrock* Caſtle, and *Colcheſter*, with other ſingle (or rather ſimple) Counties to riſe of purpoſe to betray themſelves: In ſumme, we have reduced that Kingdom to a new conformity with this of your Majeſties, to a ſweet Chaos of all confuſion, we have brought the ſway ſolely into the common peoples hands; And never did common people more truly act the part, and diſcover the genious of a common people more lively, whoſe nature is ſtill thurſting after novelties and Utopian reformations, though they foole themſelves thereby into a baſer kind of ſlavery, finding when 'tis too late thoſe ſprecious idæas, and confuſed formes of Government they apprehended before, and hugg'd in their own conceits to be meer abſurdities, when they come to the application and practice of them.

And Sir, the moſt advantagious inſtruments we have uſed to bring all this about, have been the *Pulpit* and the *Preſſe*; by theſe we diffus'd thoſe ſurmiſes and ſuppoſitious feares formerly ſpoken of, to intoxicate the braines of the people: In ſtead of *Lights* we put *Firebrands* into their Churches, who, as we did dictate unto them, did bawle out nothing but Sedition and Bloud, we have made ſome of them to bring divers to have as good an opinion of the *Alcheran* as of their Liturgie; we have made ſecular *Ordinances* to batter down all ancient Eccleſiaſtick *Canons*; we have made them to unſaint all thoſe whom they call Apoſtles in heaven, and to rob their Churches on earth; we have made them put diviſion twixt the *Trinity* it ſelf; we have made their Pulpiteers to preach the Law and *your Kingdome* in the Church, but the Goſpell and Heaven in the Chamber; we have brought them to keep their *Faſt* day more ſolemnly then the *Sabboth*, upon which, we have made them not only to ſit in Counſell, but to put in execution all

 deſigns

designs of bloud. But the main, and most materiall thing we have made use of, was *spirituall pride*, your Majesties old acquaintance, which we have infused into the mind of every Mecanique and Countrey Swaine, who will boldly now undertake to expound any Text of Scripture, New or Old, upon the warrant of their owne braines, and by the light of their own fires; Insomuch that we have made that Book which they call the *Bible*, that was ordained first for their *Salvation*, to be the chiefest Instrument of their *Damnation* We have brought these Exotic words, *Plundering* and *Storming*, which were never known among them before, and that once abominable word, *Excise*, to be now familiar among them, they are made all three free Denizons, and legitimated among them; We have raisd an Army of the dreggs of the people, though of precious stuffe to your Majesty, and so puffed them with the pride of their good successes, and so flesh'd them in Bloud, that they are no more tender of a mans or womans life then they are of a dog or a cats; We have made those that came Petitioners for Peace to be *murthered*, and those that came for War to be thanked and *hugged*; We have reduced them to such slavery as to make the very countenances of men to be commented upon, and their very thoughts to be plundred; We have made the mother to betray her child, the child the father, the husband his wife, the servant his master; We have brought a perfect tyranny on their very *soules* and *bodies*; upon the one, by tedious and endlesse imprisonment, with the forfeiture of all their livelihoods before conviction or charge; upon the other, by forcing them to swallow contradictory Oaths. On that foolish superstitious day call'd *Christmas*, with other Festivalls, we have brought them to shut up their Churches, and open their shops, so that in time they will forget the very memory of their Saviours Incarnation; We have brought them to have as little reverence of their *Temples* as of their *Tap-houses*, and to hold the *Church* to be but a Charnell-house

of

of rotten bones; and though they cringe, and knee, and ſtand bare before any wrangling Bench of Common Pleas, yet we have ſo ſtiffned their *joints*, and made their *heads* ſo tender in that which they call Gods Houſe, that they can neither *bow* the one there, nor ſcarce *uncover* the other; We have fil'd lately the Tribunals in *Weſtminſter* Hall with Favourers of your Cauſe, which makes ſome of them look rather like *Inglers* than *Judges*; We have made the Fundamentals of Law to be term'd but Formalities; We have caus'd *Magna Charta* to be torne to a thouſand ſlitters, and ſtretched the privilege of the Commons ſo wide, that it hath ſwallowed up all other; We have grub'd up and caſt away thoſe hopefull Plants that grew in their two *Seminaries* of Learning, and ſet in their room graſts of our own choice. And Sir, your precious children, and our deare brethren, the Angels of the Army, have comported themſelves notably for the improvement of your Majeſties ſervice in all theſe things, into whom we have infus'd ſuch principles that *Machiavill* himſelf were he alive there, would be accounted a Baby in compariſon of them. Among divers other wholſome maximes, we have inſtill'd this into their braines, that *Villanies muſt be ſupported by Villaines, and miſchief cannot be ſafe but by attempting greater*; We have made the wealth of Town and Countrey, of poore and rich, to glitter in Plunder upon their backs; We make them to command Free-quarter of thoſe who who were fitter to aske *them* Almes; We have made them to rifle the Monuments of the Dead, to rob the Lazaretto, to ſtrip the Orphane and Widow, to violate and pillage all things that were dedicated to God; We have made them wreek their revenge upon the very vegetables, to make ſocks of Surplices, to water their beaſts at the Font, to feed them on the Communion Table, and to terme the thing they call a Sacrament, a Two penny Banquet: Sir, we have turn'd ſuppoſed *Superſtition* to abſolute *Prophaneſſe*, Government to Confuſion, and Freedome to pure Slavery; We have brought their King to live

in a manner upon Charity, and His Queen to beg of the French Friers, and His Children to be a kind of Runnagates up and downe the world; We have ſo intoxicated that deare Daughter of yours the City of *London*, that ſhe knowes not which way to turn her ſelf; And whereas her Apprentices did riſe up like *Tigers* againſt their King, they are now become as ſo many ſilly *Sheepe* againſt our Army; We have puzzled them with ſuch vertiginous fancies and feares among themſelves, that one neighbour dare not truſt the other. To conclude Sir, we have eclips'd the glory of the Engliſh Nation, we have made them by all people far and near that ever had knowledge of them, to be pitied by ſome, to be derided by others, to be ſcorn'd of all, and to become the very taile of all Nations; In fine Sir, we have brought that Kingdom to ſuch a paſſe of confuſion, that it is a fit place only for your Imperial *Phlegetontic* Majeſty to inhabit; And Sir, there's never a Croſſe now there fright you, unleſſe it be upon their Coines of Gold and Silver, wheron they leave Croſſes to be ſtill in honour of your *Plutonian* Highneſſe, as you are *Dis*, and God of riches.

Megara having thus given up her account in behalf of her ſelf and her two Siſters, they all bowed their ſnaky heads down to their feet, which were toed with Scorpions, before the black Throne of *Pluto*, who giving a humme that made all Hell to tremble, anſwered thus:

MY pretious and moſt truſty *Tartarean* Daughters, we highly approve of the ſupererogatory ſervice you have done us for the propagation of the Stygian Empire upon earth, and ſpecially in great *Brittany*: we have ſued a long time to have a Leaſe of that Iland (touching *Scotland* we have no mind to go thither our ſelf) and we hope to obtaine it; therefore when you have viſited thoſe of that Nation whom you have ſent hither already to people this *Pit*, I would have you returne thither, and prepare that place for one of my principall habitations: The proper'ſt inſtrument you are to emp'oy, is the *Army*, and you

you must continue to infuse such principles into their heads, that they never desist till they have quite thrust out *Religionem ex solo, Regem ex solio*, and *Dominium ex salo*.

Nec sic recedant odia, vivaces agat
Violentum iras animus, & savus furor
Eterna bella pace sublata gerat.

Make Rebell to fight against Rebell, Independant against Presbyterian, London against the Army, and all against the *Cavalier*, till that Nation be wholly extinguish'd, that one may not be left to pisse against a wall; Let them never rest till they have made an end of the King who is our greatest enemy; Let those Idolatrous *Bishops* which in that idle legend their *Gospell* are call'd *Angells*, be utterly extirpated, and the very name of them banish'd for ever, as the *Tarquins* were once at *Rome*; Let not a Church or Chappell, or any consecrated place stand in the whole Isle, I intend to have a new Almanack of Saints made at my comming, for I have some Star-gazers there already fit for my purpose; make haste, for feare a peace be shuffled up on a sudden, and acquit your selves of your duties, and I may chance get you *Scotland* for your reward.

The three Furies with a most profound reverence replied, May it please your Majestie, your Ferriman *Charon* is hourely so pester'd with such multitudes of English and Scots Roundheads, that we were forced to stay a long time ere we could get a passage hither, and we feare we shall be so hindred againes therefore we most humbly desire for our expedition, that your Highnesse would vouchsafe to give us a speciall warrant to be serv'd first with a *non obstante* when we come to the bankes of *Styx*. You shall deare Daughters, saith *Pluto*, and my warrant shall be adressed to a new Journey-man, an English Tarpaling that came thither lately to serve *Charon*, upon whom I will lay my commands of purpose to attend you upon all occasions.

Having all this while listned unto what passed 'twixt *Pluto and his Furies*, my Spirit lead me up and downe Hell to see

the various ſorts of torments that are there, which indeed are innumerable: the firſt I beheld was *Ixion*, tied with vipers to a wheele, and whirld about perpetually, I might perceive a multitude of leſſer wheeles newly made thereabouts, whereunto great numbers of Engliſh, and divers of my acquaintance were bound; hard by I might diſcerne a huge company of windmils, and bodies tied with ugly Snakes at every wing, turning round perpetually; a little further there were a great many broken by milliſtones, who were whirld with them perpetually about; in another place I might perceive black whirlepooles full of tormented ſoules turning inceſſantly about: I asked what might be the reaſon of ſo many whirling tortures, my good Spirit anſwered, all theſe except *Ixions* wheele are new torments appointed for engliſh *Roundheads*, who have deſtroy'd from foundation to top, all Government both of Church and State; and as their brains turn'd round there, after every wind of Doctrin, ſo their ſouls turn here in perpetuall paines of rotation: A little further I ſpied *Prometheus* removed thither from *Caucaſus*, with a ravenous Vulture tearing and feeding upon his Liver, which as one part was eaten, renewed preſently after, and abundance of new commers were tormented in the ſame manner, theſe I was told were Engliſh men alſo that are puniſhed like *Prometheus*, becauſe as he is tortured ſo for ſtealing fire from heaven, ſo thoſe *fierie Zelots* of *England* would preſumptuouſly pry into the ſecret, and Cabinet Counſels of God Almighty, and dive into thoſe high points of Predeſtination, Election, and Reprobation, being not contented *ſapere ad ſobrietatem*, but expect ever and anon to have new lights and flaſhes of illuminations. Then came I to the bottomleſſe tub which *Danaus* Daughters were a filling, a numberleſſe company of other ſuch tubs were there, and Engliſh women and men were inceſſantly labouring to fill them up with the ſtenchy black waters of *Acheron*: Thoſe I was told were thoſe over-curious people in *England* which would be never ſatisfied with

Chriſtian

Christian Knowledge, and had no other devotion then to be *alwaies learning and never comming to the Truth*, as these restlesse fillers never come to the bottome; Then I beheld the most horrid tortures of those Giants that would have thust *Iove* out of heaven, and a world of English among them, who partaked of the same punishments, because they had conspired upon earth to dethrone their lawfull King; Not far further I might espie glowing fiery tubs made Pulpit like, and I was told they were prepared for those profane and presumptuous Mecanicks and other Lay men, who use to preach in *London*, and abuse the Sacred Oracles of God; and *Vzzi* was not far off tormented there for being so bold with the *Arke*; A little thereabouts I saw hoopes of Iron were made *Garter*-like, of hot glowing steele, these I was told were designed for those perjured Knights of St *George* in *England*, to weare upon their legs, when they come thither for breaking in the late war that solemn Oath they had taken at their instalement, to *defend the honour and quarrells, the rights and dignities of their Soveraigne*; A little distant I might see divers brasse hoopes glowing with fire, and they were scarfe-like, I was told they were ordained for those Knights of the *Bath* to weare for Ribbands next their skins when they came thither, for infringing that Sacred Oath they made at their Election, which was, *To love their Soveraigne above all Earthly creatures, and for his right and dignity to live and die*; A little beyond I saw a *Copper* Table, with Chaires of the same, all *candent hot*, I was told those were for perjured English privy Concellors, who had broak their Oath to the King, which they took *to be true and faithfull servants unto Him, and if they knew or understood any manner of thing to be attempted, done, or spoken against His Majesties Person, Honour, Crown, or Dignity, they swore to let and withstand the same to the uttermost of their power, and cause it to be revealed, either to himself, or any other of his Privy Councell*; Some few paces off I might descry a little *round* place like a Porters Lodge at Court with a Fane

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on the top of it, where was a new kind of exquiſite torment provided, but I could not diſcerne it by reaſon of the ſmoake; for once a Secretary of State and his Son in *England*, who though they were of differing opinions in every thing elſe, yet jump'd in this, to deſtroy their King and Countrey; Hard by, I ſaw a little furnace ſo candent glowing hot that it look'd of the colour of a Rubie or *Carbuncle*, I was told that was to clap in the Maſter of the Kings Jewell-houſe when he comes thither, for being ſo perfidious and ſo perjurious to his Maſter; I asked whether there were any other infernall tortures beſides *fire*, yes I was anſwered, for to ſpeake of fire to a people habituated to a cold clime, were not only to make them to ſlight Hell, but to invite them to come to it; So my Spirit brought me Northward a little, and ſhew'd me a huge lough, where there were *froſted* mountaines up and down, and I might diſcover among them a world of *Blewcaps* lying in beds of Ice with their noſes and toes nipt, the iceſicles ſtucke to their fingers ends like hornes, and a bleak hiſpid wind blew inceſſantly upon them, they made the moſt pitious noiſe that me thought I heard in all Hell; for they wawld, ſcreecha, and howld out ever and anone this note, *Wea is me, wea is me, that ever I betrayd my gid King*.

Among all theſe damned ſoules, I deſired to ſee what puniſhment an *Atheiſt* had: my Spirit anſwered me, there were no Athieſts in Hell at all, they were ſo on earth before they came hither, and here they ſenſibly find and acknowledge there is a God by his *Juſtice and Judgement*: For there is here *pœna ſenſus*, and *pœna damni*; the outward torments you behold is not ſo grievous as the inferiour regrets and agonies the ſoules have to have loſt Heaven, whereof they were once capable, and to be eternally forſaken by their Creator; adde hereunto that they know theſe torments to be endleſſe, eaſeleſſe, and remedileſſe: Beſides theſe qualities that are incident to the damned ſoules, they have neither *patience* towards themſelves in their owne ſuf-

ſuffrances, nor *pitty* towards others, but their nature is ſo accurſed, that they wiſh their neighbors torments to be greater then their own: Beſides, their torments never leſſen either by tract of time or degree of ſence, but they perſever alwaies the ſame; they are ſtill freſh, and the ſoule able to beare them. I ſaw that *everlaſting Villaine* who committed the firſt Sacrilege we read of, by burning *Dianas* Temple, and his torments were as freſh and violent upon him as they were the firſt day he was thrown in thither; *Iudas* was in the ſame degree and ſtrength of torture as the firſt moment he fell thither; *Iack Cade*, *Wat Tyler*, *Iack Straw*, *Kit the Tanner* did fry there as freſh as they did that inſtant they were caſt thither: Amongſt whom it made my heart to melt within me to ſee ſome of their new-com'd Countreymen amongſt them, whereof I knew divers: And though *Society* uſeth to be ſome *ſolace* to men in miſery, yet they conceived no comfort at all by theſe freſh companions.

It is high time for us now ſaid my good guiding Angell to be gone to the other world, ſo we directed our courſe towards the Ferry upon *Styx*; Lord, what varities of lurid, and ugly ſqualid countenances did I behold as I paſſed! There was one ſort of torment I had not ſeene before, there were divers that hung by their tongues upon poſts up and down; I asked what they were, anſwer was made, that they were Engliſh Divines, and Lawyers, who againſt their *Knowledge*, as well as their *Conſciences*, did ſeduce the ignorant people of *England* in the late Civill Warre. A little further I might ſee abundance of *Committee-men* and others, ſlopping up drops of moulten lead in lieu of French-barley broth, with a rabble of Ap-

prentices ſweeping the gutters of Hell, with brooms tuſted with Addars and Snakes, becauſe they reſorting to the Wars, had thereby broke their Indentures with their Maſters, and their Oaths of Supremacy to their Prince.

Paſſing then along towards the Ferry, a world of hideous ſhapes preſented themſelves unto me; there I ſaw *Corroding cares*, *panick feares*, *pining grief*, *lethargy*, *ſleep*, *ugly rebellion*, *revengefull malice*, *ſnakie diſcord*, *and ſpirituall pride*, the ſin that firſt peopled Hell: Couches of Toads, Adders, and Scorpions in a corner hard by, I ask'd for whom they were prepared, I was anſwered, for ſome Engliſh *Evangelizing*, *Anabaptiſticall*, *and Legiſlative Ladies*, which make writing of Notes at Sermons, and Religion a meere vaile to cover their hypocriſie; So having me thought by a miraculous providence charm'd *Cerberus* by pointing at him with the ſigne of the Croſſe upon the fingers, we paſſed quietly by him, and being come to the Ferry, I found true what *Pluto* had ſaid before, that there was a new Engliſh *Tarpaulin* entertained by *Charon*, but he was in a moſt cruell torture, for his body was covered thicke all over with Pitch and Tarre, which burnt and flam'd round about him: And here the *Trance* left me.

Having thus come out of this ſad ſwound, I began by a ſerious recollection of my ſelf to recall to my thoughts thoſe diſmall and dreadfull objects that had appeared unto me; for though I was in Hell I did not taſte of *Lethe* all the while, ſo that I did not forget any thing that I had ſeen; all things ſeem'd to appeare unto me ſo really, that if I had been of that opinion (wherof many have been) that Devills are *nothing elſe but the ill affections*, *the exorbitant paſſions*, *and perturbances of the mind*, it had been able

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to have convinced me. The Reader may easily imagine what apprehensions of horror these apparitions left in my braine: For as a River being by an inundation swell'd out of her wonted Channell leaves along the neighbouring Medowes seggs and sands, and much riff-raff stuffe behind her upon her return to her former bed; So did this *Extasis*, with that deluge of objects wherewith it overwhelm'd my braine, leave behind it blacke sudds, and gastly thoughts within me, which have done me no hurt I thank God for it, it being a true rule that *Malum cognitum facilius evitatur*: And I wish they may produce the same effects in the Reader as they did in the Author. VVe find in the Sacred Oracles that *Dives* in his discourse from Hell with *Abraham*, wish'd that some body might be sent from the dead to informe and reclaime his Brothers upon earth, because the words of a *dead man* would gaine more credit with them then any others. Let the Readers of this *Trance* make account that the Author was *such a one*; for he hath been *buried* many years, and so let it work within him accordingly.

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FINIS.